

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 12 as follows. Note that all claims currently pending in this application, including those presently being amended, have been reproduced below.

Q1  
Sub B7

1. ~~(Currently Amended) An image recording and reproducing device~~  
comprising:  
a reproducing unit adapted to reproduce image data from a recording  
medium;  
an embedding unit adapted to embed specific information into the image  
data using a digital watermarking technique; and  
a selecting unit adapted to select whether the specific information is  
embedded into the image data or not in accordance with user's instruction.  
~~record processing means for recording image data on a first recording area~~  
~~of a recording medium and recording specific information on a second recording area of~~  
~~said recording medium;~~  
~~reproduction processing means for reproducing said first and second~~  
~~recording areas; and~~  
~~means for converting said reproduced specific information to electric~~  
~~information, which is difficult to recognize, so that said electric information is selectively~~  
~~combined with said image data.~~

2. ~~(Currently Amended) A device Device according to claim 1,~~  
~~wherein the embedding unit is adapted to embed the specific information into the image~~  
~~data without decompressing the image data.~~

~~multiplexing means for multiplexing said converted electric information,~~  
~~which is difficult to recognize, and said reproduced image data, to output; and~~

~~selecting means for selecting said multiplexed data obtained from said~~  
~~multiplexing means or said reproduced image data to output.~~

Q1  
Sub B1  
3. (Currently Amended) A device ~~Device~~ according to claim 1,  
~~wherein the reproducing unit is adapted to reproduce the specific information from the~~  
~~recording medium recording the image data~~

~~generating means for generating said specific information.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A device ~~Device~~ according to claim 1,  
~~wherein the reproducing unit adapted to reproduce the specific information from another~~  
~~recording medium~~ ~~said first recording area is provided on a first recording medium and~~  
~~said second recording area is provided on a second recording medium.~~

5. (Currently Amended) An image ~~recording and reproducing method~~  
~~comprising the steps of:~~

~~recording reproducing image data from on a first recording area of a~~  
~~recording medium and recording specific information on a second recording area of said~~  
~~recording medium;~~

embedding specific information into the image data using a digital watermarking technique; and

selecting whether the converting said reproduced specific information is embedded into the to electric information, which is difficult to recognize, so that said electric information is selectively combined with said image data or not in accordance with user's instruction.

Q. 6. (Currently Amended) A method Method according to claim 5, wherein the embedding step is a step of embedding the specific information into the image data without decompressing the image data.

multiplexing said converted electric information, which is difficult to recognize, and said reproduced image data, to output; and

selecting said multiplexed data or said reproduced image data to output.

Sub 7. (Currently Amended) A method Device according to claim 5, wherein the reproducing step is a step of reproducing the specific information from the recording medium recording the image data. further comprising a step of:

generating said specific information:

8. (Currently Amended) A method Device according to claim 5, wherein the reproducing step is a step of reproducing the specific information from another

said first recording area is provided on a first recording medium, and said second recording area is provided on a second recording medium.

9. ~~(Currently Amended) A storage memory medium storing a program~~  
~~for executing an image reproducing method, the image reproducing method readable with~~  
~~computer, comprising the steps processing of:~~

~~recording image data on a first recording area of a recording medium and~~  
~~recording specific information on a second recording area of said recording medium;~~

~~reproducing image data from a said first and second recording medium~~  
~~areas; and~~

~~embedding specific information into the image data using a digital~~  
~~watermarking technique; and~~

~~selecting whether the converting said reproduced specific information is~~  
~~embedded into the to electric information, which is difficult to recognize, so that said~~  
~~electric information is selectively combined with said image data or not in accordance with~~  
~~user's instruction.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A storage Memory medium according to  
claim 9, wherein the embedding step is a step of embedding the specific information into  
the image data without decompressing the image data. further comprising the processing  
of:

~~multiplexing said converted electric information, which is difficult to~~  
~~recognize, and said reproduced image data, to output; and~~

~~selecting said multiplexed data or said reproduced image data to output.~~

8.2  
11. ~~(Currently Amended) A storage Memory medium according to~~

claim 9, wherein the reproducing step is a step of reproducing the specific information from the recording medium that recorded the image data. ~~a program for executing the processing of generating said specific information is stored herein.~~

Q.1  
12. (Currently Amended) A storage Memory medium according to

claim 9, wherein the reproducing step is a step of reproducing the specific information from another ~~said first recording area is provided on a first recording medium, and said second recording area is provided on a second recording medium.~~

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